

PUERTO RICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 29, 1992

MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund was held on Friday May 29, 1992, at the Sheraton Park Hotel hosted by Anheuser-Busch.

PRESENT

Mari-Carmen Aponte, Esq.
William Callejo, Esq.
Anna Carbonell
Ernest Collazo, Esq.
Fr. Joseph Fitzpatrick
Amy Gladstein, Esq.
Grace I. Friedman, Esq.
Joy V. Jones, Esq.
Harold Lewis, Jr., Esq.
Benito Romano, Esq.
Alba Rovira Paoli, Esq.
José S. Reynoso
Salvador Tió, Esq.
Sonia Sotomayor, Esq.
Jaime Taronji, Esq.
Salvador Tió, Esq.
Martin Zuckerman, Esq.

Nathan Quiñones

STAFF

Rubén Franco - President and General Counsel

Yvette Bravo-Weber - Director, Legal Education Division
Elizabeth Dickinson - Director of Development and Public Relations
Rafael Gómez - Fiscal Director
Yocelyn Tarazona-Cornelio - Administrative Assistant

A quorum having been established, Ernest Collazo, called the meeting to order.

The Board Chair introduced representatives from Anheuser-Busch, who provided the facilities at The Sheraton Park Hotel for the meeting and for the reception to follow the Board meeting. During the reception, Anheuser-Busch will announce a special grant to PRLDEF to establish an attorney fellowship.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made, duly seconded, and carried unanimously, adopting the minutes of the January 24, 1992 meeting.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

José Reynoso reported on the Corporate Campaign. He distributed a list of corporations which contained names of PRLDEF Board members whom he suggested should call their contacts at the corporations. He also requested that Elizabeth Dickinson or Damaris Bianchi be informed of any other corporations that members may have contacts with.

Mr. Reynoso stated that the Development Committee will also seek to expand the level of support to PRLDEF from individuals. He referred to a memo previously sent to Board members wherein he requested that each member solicit contributions to PRLDEF from two colleagues, friends, etc. Mr. Reynoso also stated that PRLDEF should move aggressively to establish an endowment fund. Mr. Reynoso feels the Board should make the initial contribution to this fund, so as to demonstrate to other prospective contributors, the seriousness of the Board's intent.

To commence the endowment, Mr. Reynoso proposed, in the form of a resolution, that 50% of any proceeds in excess of net revenues of \$75,000 realized in the 1992 banquet, be allocated to the endowment.

A discussion followed regarding the proposed resolution. A question was raised as to whether this would be a new endowment fund or if it would be part of the endowment established with the Rockefeller Stabilization Grant. It was stated that this endowment would be added to the Rockefeller grant endowment. It was also stated that the resolution can be modified or rescinded at a later date if there is a budget shortfall.

The resolution was amended to reflect that there should be a distinction between Board allocated funds and the endowment monies presently there; also, that rules are to be established by the Board regarding any additional funds contributed to the endowment.

A motion was made to adopt this resolution, and it was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

José Reynoso continued his report. He discussed Special Development committees, which would include Board members and, perhaps people from the community. Andrés Gil is to chair the committee which will seek support from the legal community. Also, Damaso Seda, Secretary-Treasurer of the Transport Workers Union, will co-chair a Labor Committee, which will seek support from the labor community. Gilbert Rivera will be asked to chair the committee which will seek support from the Latino business community. Jay Hershenson, Vice-Chancellor for University Relations, CUNY, will host a breakfast in September to help develop support for PRLDEF's Higher Education Outreach Program.

Mr. Reynoso informed the Board that J.P. Morgan has funded a summer intern who will conduct research for the Latinas' Rights Initiative, on the AIDS epidemic.

The Annual Banquet has been scheduled for October 27th, and there was a discussion about the proposed honorees. Also, it was suggested that former members be invited to attend the Banquet and to be on the Banquet Committee.

Ernest Collazo congratulated José Reynoso for his report and for the work of the Development Committee.

B. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

William Callejo indicated that since the Education Committee was unable to meet prior to the Board meeting, he would not present a report. He referred Board members to the section on the Education Division in the report of the President and General Counsel.

C. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Rafael Gómez presented the proposed Budget for 1992-93, which had previously been distributed to the Board members.

After discussion, a motion was made, duly seconded, and carried unanimously, adopting the 1992-93 budget.

Rafael Gómez then presented to the Board a quarterly financial report.

REPORT ON THE CHICAGO OFFICE

The Chair asked Benito Romano to report on the progress of the Chicago office. Mr. Romano reported to the Board about his review and modifications of the draft of the concept paper which had been written by the Chicago Committee. The concept paper outlines the plans for establishing a PRLDEF office in Chicago. The document

was discussed, and several changes were suggested.

A discussion was had regarding the Chicago Office on matters of governance, structure, community input, and the level of autonomy that such an office would have.

Mr. Romano requested and received authorization from the Board to conduct research on the legal requirements to practice law in Chicago.

The Chicago concept paper was adopted by the Board.

D. LITIGATION COMMITTEE

The Litigation Committee Chairman, Salvador Tió, reported on the Litigation Committee meeting held on 5/28/92, and on the activities of the Litigation Committee. He referred the Board members to materials distributed.

Mr. Tió stated that the Litigation committee mainly discussed the need to move the agenda of the Latinas' Rights Project further along. Mr. Tió said that although a significant amount of discussion and activity was taking place at the staff level, there may be a need to hire a consultant in order to expedite development of a funding proposal to seek substantial funding for the project.

Mr. Tió mentioned the need for a Board retreat to discuss the goals of the organization for the next 15-20 years.

III. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT/GENERAL COUNSEL

Rubén Franco referred the Board members to his written report. He highlighted some of the areas, and invited questions from the Board regarding the report.

Ernest Collazo stated that he had recently read in the New York Times an article on Judge Lacey's Redistricting Plan for New York's congressional districts. The article contained quotes from Rubén Franco. Mr. Collazo said that historically PRLDEF has not been an organization which the press has sought with any frequency in order to get opinions or comments. He was gratified to see the quotes from Rubén; he feels that it indicates the level of prestige PRLDEF has attained. Mr. Collazo feels that this is the result of the fine work that Rubén and the PRLDEF staff have been doing.

Rubén responded to questions regarding the Lacey Redistricting Plan and other matters.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Ernest Collazo introduced Maryann Policastro, an independent management consultant hired by the Ford Foundation to do an

assessment survey of the Board of Directors. While conducting her survey Ms. Policastro spoke with most of the Board members to ascertain how they saw their role on the Board; what they hope to accomplish as Board members; their view of Board policy; and, to critique Board performance. She also met with Rubén Franco and Elizabeth Dickinson. She submitted a written report on her assessment and was present at this meeting to discuss it with the Board.

There was a discussion and questions were asked of Ms. Policastro, after which Ernest Collazo informed the Board that the Executive Committee will discuss implementation of Ms. Policastro's assessment and suggested changes.

After Ms. Policastro's report, the Chair informed the Board members that he would like each one to make a financial contribution to PRLDEF. Each member should fill out a pledge card and return it by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 1992. The pledge cards returned by June 30, 1992 are for the Year 1992-93.

At this point, Rubén Franco informed the Board about PRLDEF's need for an archives, and of the interest shown by the Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños, at Hunter College, to provide the space for the archives. Ken Kimerling is involved in working on the details for PRLDEF.

Jenny Rivera, Associate Counsel at PRLDEF, addressed the Board to inform them of her intent to take a leave of absence in order to pursue an LL.M. degree at Columbia Law School. On behalf of the Board of Directors, Ernest Collazo thanked Ms. Rivera for sharing this information with the Board, and wished her good luck in her endeavors.

The next Board meeting was scheduled for the day of the Annual Banquet, Tuesday, October 27, 1992, 10:00 am.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.